

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 FAA-00

CAB-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 /142 W
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O P 131109Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0406

INFO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, EB, UR, GW

SUBJECT: LUFTHANSA BCZ ENTRY AND SOVIET SEPT 4 BASC
PROPOSALS

REF: (A) STATE 26556; (B) USBER 196

SUMMARY: AT FEB 12 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP AGREED
THAT SOVIET SEPT 4 BASC PROPOSALS COULD BE DEALT WITH
QUICKLY PRIOR TO ALLIED APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON
LUFTHANSA BCZ ENTRY, AND ALLIED REPS AGREED TO RECOMMEND
TO CAPITALS TWO-STEP PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH SEPT 4
PROPOSALS WOULD BE HANDLED ON BASIS BERLIN SCENARIO
(REFTEL B) FOLLOWED BY ALLIED APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON THE
LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT BONN GROUP MEETING FEB 12 FRG REP (LUECKING)
EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT THAT ALLIES COULD RESPOND TO
SOVIET SEPT 4 BASC PROPOSALS PRIOR TO INITIATING EAST-
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WEST TALKS ON THE LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS TO BERLIN, INDICAT-

ING APPRECIATION FOR ARGUMENT MADE PARTICULARLY BY FRENCH REP (BOISSIER) THAT MIXING TWO ISSUES COULD LEAD TO WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF BERLIN AIR MATTERS WHICH COULD WELL BE HARMFUL TO ALLIED INTERESTS. NEITHER FRENCH, BRITISH, OR GERMANS SUPPORTED POSSIBILITY OF RAISING LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS IN COMBINATION WITH DISCUSSION OF ALREADY TABLED SOVIET BASIC PROPOSALS.

2. DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF BERLIN SCENARIO (REFTEL B) FRENCH (BOISSIER) AND UK (CULLIMORE) REPS EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE MATTER IN SINGLE MEETING OF FOUR CHIEF CONTROLLERS IN BASIC WITH THREE ALLIED CONTROLLERS MERELY GIVING REPLY TO SOVIET PROPOSALS AS THEY ARE NOW UNDERSTOOD WITH NO FURTHER EXPLANATION BY SOVIETS. BOISSIER AND CULLIMORE WERE DISSUADED FROM THIS POSITION BY U.S. REP WHO NOTED THAT, GIVEN NATURE OF SOVIET SEPT 4 STATEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF JAN 25, IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED THAT WE COULD SUCCEED IN WRAPPING UP MATTER IN SINGLE MEETING. FURTHER, AND MORE IMPORTANT, SINCE SOVIETS COULD NOT BE STOPPED FROM EXPANDING THEIR REQUESTS, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE ANY RESPONSE UNTIL WE KNEW THE FULL LIST OF WHAT SOVIETS WANT. UK AND FRENCH REPS THEN AGREED TO RECOMMEND BERLIN SCENARIO TO THEIR AUTHORITIES AS BASIS FOR APPROACH, BUT INSISTED THAT AT FIRST OF TWO FORESEEN MEETINGS THE WESTERN CHIEF CONTROLLER WOULD SIMPLY LISTEN TO SOVIET EXPLANATION IN DETAIL WITHOUT COMMENT, AND WOULD NOT MAKE STATEMENT REGARDING THE BARTCC-SCHOENEFELD LINK UNTIL CONCLUSION OF SECOND, AND FINAL, MEETING AT WHICH ALLIED REPLIES TO SOVIET POINTS WOULD BE MADE.

3. COMMENT: PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FRG AGREEMENT ON TWO STEP PLAN, WE BELIEVE OUTCOME WAS AS GOOD AS COULD BE EXPECTED. WE HOPE THAT CAPITALS WILL AGREE WITH BONN GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS SO WE CAN MOVE RAPIDLY AHEAD. IT SEEMS REALISTIC TO HOPE THAT THE BASIC ITEMS CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF IN TIME TO ALLOW THE CHAIRMAN POLAD APPROACH ON LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS TO BE MADE BEFORE END OF FEB.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SAFETY, BERLIN AIR ACCESS, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN02373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740237/aaaabifo.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 26556; (B) USBER 196
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUFTHANSA BCZ ENTRY AND SOVIET SEPT 4 BASIC PROPOSALS
TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, BE, UR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005